

News Release

Senator Pete V. Domenici

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAS CRUCES BUSINESSMAN TO BE N.M. DELEGATE TO SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON

Domenici Nominated Joe Martínez to Serve as Delegate

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Pete Domenici today announced that Las Cruces business owner Joe Martínez of Las Cruces will be a New Mexico delegate to the 2000 Congressional Small Business Summit in Washington, D.C.

Martínez is the owner of JA-MAR Co., Inc. in Las Cruces. He will join hundreds of other small business owners from across the country who will attend the June 7-10 summit to develop a Small Business Referendum for Congressional Action. The summit is being hosted by the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB).

"I believe Joe can provide a lot of insight into the small business environment in New Mexico, particularly in terms of doing business in a border region," Domenici said. "I hope this summit will help shed more light on the complex and sometimes ludicrous business regulations imposed by the federal bureaucracy. I hope they will also provide some insight as to how Congress can better help small business owners afford health care coverage and other benefits for their employees."

Summit delegates will discuss the challenges facing small business and decide how to best overcome those challenges. Policy and issue breakout sessions will be held on a variety of topics, including tax reform, the cost of health care, and e-commerce. Votes will be cast on a number of policy options, and the referendum results will be sent to Capitol Hill. A Presidential straw poll will also be conducted.

Public figures scheduled to speak at the Summit include U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer, Senate Small Business Committee Chairman Kit Bond, House Small Business Committee Chairman Jim Talent, and Gen. Colin Powell (Ret.), the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

For more information about NFIB's 2000 Congressional Small Business Summit, visit <http://www.nfibonline.com/2000summit/> Wells Fargo & Company is the Title Sponsor for the

summit.

In February, the Senate approved a Domenici amendment to the Bankruptcy Reform Act that would raise the minimum wage by \$1 and included a small business relief tax package, totaling an estimated \$18.4 billion over five years. That relief package includes such things as above-the-line deduction for health insurance expenses for individuals without employer-provided coverage; a pension reform tax package; 100 percent deductibility of health care insurance for the self-employed; a reduction of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act surtax from 0.8 percent to 0.6 percent; and, a provision to make permanent the Work Opportunity Tax Credit given to employers who hire welfare people moving off the welfare roles.